

# Focus on Faith

## Christmas is about Christ

Some people complain that we're not keeping the Christ in Christmas.

But, in reality, there's no way around it — Christmas is about Christ and Christ is about Christmas. It would be hard to find much to celebrate on December 25 if the event never happened.

The birth about 2,000 years ago has affected the lives of countless people ever since. Born to an ordinary mother in an ordinary Israeli village, Jesus was genuinely human. But, believers everywhere recognize that, by His miraculous birth, this baby was none other than God in human flesh. (Luke 1:26-37 and Matthew 1:18-25)

This meant that His person was both infinite and eternal, but without a sinful human nature.

Therefore, as the angels announced, "He was born this day in the city of David a Saviour" (Luke 2:11) by whose power people everywhere have been and can be still be forgiven, liberated from sins control and given "newness of life." (Romans 6:4)

Christmas is not fully appreciated until this central purpose of it all is understood. So, this Christmas, in great cathedrals and humble parish churches, in hospital rooms, prison cells, and homes across the nation, this same story of Christ's coming


as predicted (Isaiah 7:14; 9:6) will be proclaimed and received by people everywhere.

Why? Because people know the difference their faith in Christ has made in their lives.

Equally, Christmas is what Christ is all about. Each year, the holidays offer a message of hope in times of despair, act of kindness in a world of self-interests and proclaims once again that this is the kind of life God wants us to have, a life that celebrates the good things He has given.

Christmas will be a happy time for those who both understand and received God's Christmas gift and know how to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

**The Lion's Den**  
Christian Book Shoppe



115 Main St. North Markham Village Tel: (905) 472-8412  
Diana Whitehead

**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
20 Union St., Unionville - 477-1731  
(Near Hwy. 7 & Main)

**December 24th**  
5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., 11:00 p.m.  
Christmas Eve Worship by Candlelight

**December 25th**  
10:30 a.m. Christmas Day Worship

Join us for a  
**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

Services at 6:30 and 8:00 p.m.

*Unionville Presbyterian Church*  
600 Village Parkway, Unionville  
(905) 475-6233

www.members.home.net/unionvillepc

### GRACE CHURCH

ANGLICAN 294-3184  
19 Parkway Avenue  
(Parkway runs east from Hwy. 48  
3 stop lights north of Hwy. 7)

### CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 p.m.  
Children's Service

6:00 p.m.  
Family Eucharist

8:00 p.m.  
Sung Eucharist with  
Bishop J. Taylor Pryce

11:00 p.m. Choral Eucharist

### CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

The Rev. Paul G. Walker - Rector  
The Rev. Karen R. Sandell - Assistant Curate

## COMING HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Home,  
not just to family and friends,  
but to our truest self.

Christmas dares us  
to journey toward that inner core  
where we are most real.

Christmas dazzles and beckons and liberates

with the whiff of opportunity  
to be genuine.

burning with vision and determination  
to be a gift

and offer all that we can be  
in love to this needing world.

Please join us on December 24 as we celebrate Christmas:  
7 p.m. Family Service & Drama Presentation  
11 p.m. Communion Worship Service

St. Andrew's United Church 32 Main Street North, Markham, 294-0351  
Ministerial Team: Dr. Frederick A. Styles and Anne Styles

### CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH

131 Main St., Unionville  
(905) 474-0183

**Christmas Eve, December 24th**  
5:00 & 7:00 p.m. Family Worship Service

10:30 p.m. Communion Service

**Sunday, December 26th**

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

**Sunday, January 2nd**

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

### MARKEAM MISSIONARY CHURCH

Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada

**Friday, December 24th**  
6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service  
Special Guest - Boy Pianist, AARON TANN

**Sunday, December 26th**

10:30 a.m. Family Worship Service  
Pastor, Thurton Speaking  
(No Evening Service)

Please call church for information regarding other programs available to you and your family

## St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

A warm welcome awaits you.

**Friday, December 24, 1999**

6:30 p.m. - Family Christmas Eve Service led by our youth

10:00 p.m. - Service of Carols & Communion

**Sunday, December 26, 1999**

Service of Nine Lessons & Carols at 11:00 a.m.

Infant & toddler care provided (no Church School)



143 Main Street, Markham • (905) 294-4736

## CHRISTMAS EVE

7:30PM



### UNIONVILLE ALLIANCE CHURCH

4898 16th Ave. • on the north side of 16th between Kennedy & McCowan • 905-477-1104  
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP @ 9:30 AND 11:15 FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND ADULTS

## ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

14 Highgate Drive, Markham  
(Two blocks north of Steeles or two block south of Denison on Birchmount Rd.)  
(905) 474-1224

### CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

#### Christmas Weekend Masses

**Christmas Eve Friday, Dec. 24:** 12:10 weekday Mass  
8:00 p.m. Christmas Midnight Mass (Music from 7:00 p.m.)  
12:00 a.m. Christmas Midnight Mass (Music from 11:20 p.m.)

**Christmas Day Saturday, Dec. 25:** 9:00, 10:30, 12:00 Noon and 2:00 p.m. • No 5:00 p.m. Mass today  
**Sunday, Dec. 26:** 9:00, 10:30 and 12:00 Noon

#### New Year's Weekend Masses

**New Year's Eve Friday, Dec. 31:** 12:10 weekday Mass  
5:00 p.m. Vigil of Mary, Mother of God  
11:15 p.m. EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT  
Singing of Vespers of Mary, Mother of God  
11:45 p.m. Mass of Mary, Mother of God ushers in the New Year

and the new Millennium (The Glory to God in the Highest will be sung at twelve midnight in the two thousandth year since the Birthday of Christ when the angels sang out these same words.) Bring along any handbells to ring at that time!

Following the 11:45 p.m. Mass there will be light refreshments in the Hall. Please bring some finger foods to Hall when you come to the church.

**New Year's day Saturday, Jan. 1, 2000:** 9:00, 10:30, 12:00 Noon and 2:00 p.m. (Mass of Mary, Mother of God  
NO 5:00 p.m. Mass today)

**Feast of the Holy Family Sunday, Jan. 2:** 9:00, 10:30 and 12:00 noon

**KINDLY NOTE: THERE ARE NO 5:00 P.M. MASSES ON THOSE SATURDAYS**

#### WHICH ARE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S DAY

##### Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Before (and during, if necessary) all weekday and weekend Masses, by appointment if necessary, Friday, December 24: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.